

## THE WAR.

Fuller Details of the Fighting  
on the Danube.

## OPERATIONS IN ASIA.

The Sultan to Become the Leader  
of a Holy War.

## DOES ENGLAND MEAN TO FIGHT?

Roumania Preparing to Strike  
for Independence.

## THE POLES EXCITED.

(BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.)

LONDON, May 10, 1877.

The Herald correspondent in Constantinople telegraphs that Sultan Abdul Hamid has positively refused to grant the armistice which has been applied for to enable a Russian representative to accompany the Turkish army in the field and report the operations from actual personal observation. The reason given by the Sultan for this refusal is that the Herald has shown "hostility to Turkish interests" in the views it has put forth in regard to the war and the relations between the Porte and the Christian provinces. The object of the Herald in seeking to supply the American public with the latest and most authentic news of the operations of the warring armies is thus impeded by this action of the Sultan, and if the accounts sent from the Turkish armies in future are less full than those from the Russian side the Turkish authorities themselves are the parties to blame. This gives an illustration of the crude notions which prevail even in the highest circles in Constantinople with regard to journalism. The Turk's idea is that if a newspaper says he is wrong in a certain thing or that his system of government is bad, therefore all correspondents of that paper will describe all battles fought by Turkish armies as tremendous Russian victories.

## THE FIGHTING ON THE DANUBE.

The Herald correspondent at Kischineff telegraphs that on Tuesday the Turkish monitors on the Danube bombarded the monastery of Portenon, near Frlatze, in the vicinity of Reni. The Thirteenth battery of Russian horse artillery returned the fire vigorously, and in the course of the action lost three horses and one man. This was the first Russian killed in the Army of the Danube. Further details of the artillery fight at Reni are arriving here. A telegram from Galatz, dated Wednesday, says: "Yesterday afternoon two Turkish monitors supported by the shore batteries at Ghicet opened a murderous fire upon the Russian batteries at Ibrail, which replied vigorously. The cannonade lasted three hours. Ibrail was uninjured. All last night there was great activity in the Russian camp, showing that the Russians are about to assume the offensive. Early this morning the Russian batteries recommenced cannonading Ghicet, and at nine A. M. a brisk musketry fire was audible at all points." A Bucharest despatch says: "The artillery engagement was renewed with vigor late on Tuesday afternoon between the Turkish batteries at Widin and the Roumanian batteries at Kalafat, which only ceased at midnight. The barracks and Custom House at Kalafat were destroyed and the church injured. Widin was set on fire. The Turks again fired yesterday but did not reach Kalafat. The Roumanian shells only reached the Turkish vessels off Widin."

The Turkish commander has resolved to make the first stand in defence of the Dobrukscha on the line from Kostendji to Chernaova, and his next defence within the precincts of the quadrangle formed by the fortresses of Rustchuk, Varna, Schumla and Silistria. Two monitors will be stationed so as to harass the Russians when they attempt to cross the Danube, which will most likely be near Nikopolis, on and after the 19th inst.

OPERATIONS IN ASIA.  
A despatch from Pera, dated Tuesday night, says: "The Russians have gained an important victory between Kars and Erzeroum. The Turks retreated upon Erzeroum. It is rumored that 14,000 Turks were captured. Rumors of an armistice came from Bulgaria." The following official despatch, dated Tiflis, May 7, has been received in St. Petersburg: "The main body has reconquered the neighborhood of Kars. A column of cavalry has been sent to Kagisman. One detachment is approaching Ardahan and another Dyadin. Everywhere the Russians meet with a friendly reception both from Christians and Muslims. The Turkish prisoners are glad to be relieved from the hardships of military service." A despatch from Erzeroum, dated nine o'clock Tuesday night, says the Russians are surrounding Sogdiana and concentrating for an attack on Moukhtar Pacha's position at Hardiz and Yroikof. The Russian force which occupied Bayazid is now advancing in the direction of Kizilirmak and Antob, leaving Karakisa and Alashkirt on their right. Bayazid has now been placed under control of a Russian detachment of police. A despatch dated Erzeroum, Wednesday, ten P. M. (yesterday), makes no mention of any fighting. It reports that the Russian column, which was going down the line of the Turco-Persian frontier in the direction of Van, has stopped at Bayazid on account of the impracticability of the country and the lack of forage. A Vienna correspondent, discussing the military situation in Asia, after speaking of the possibility of Moukhtar Pacha's position becoming untenable from the advance of the three Russian columns, says: "Fortunately for Moukhtar Pacha there is a strong position at Deve and Bursa, to the east of Erzeroum, so that unless he is forced to accept battle previously the Russians may possibly be heard of in the neighborhood of Erzeroum before the Turks even make a serious attempt at resistance. The Turkish debut in the Asiatic campaign hardly be considered successful. Their prominent idea seems to have been to stop all the gaps along the frontier by the Russians might enter. It would not be easy to repair this scattering of forces, and Moukhtar Pacha must have better fortune than he had in Herzegovina if he can get back in time a portion of the forces wasted in Batoum and Ardahan, while it must take some time to obtain reinforcements from elsewhere."

PROCLAIMING A HOLY WAR IN ISLAM.  
In a few days the annual Holy Pilgrim Caravan will leave Constantinople for Mecca laden with costly presents for the Mohammedan shrines. The Sheikh-ul-Islam gave to the leader, who has been this time appointed by the Sultan himself, instructions to proclaim in all the cities he passed through that Russia, who persecutes the Christians heretofore for not conforming to the orthodox faith, was now intent upon driving all believers in Islamism from Europe. The Sultan has therewithin issued the faithful to the holy war against infidel Russia, and promises to go himself if the war proves successful to his arms. On Friday the Sheikh-ul-Islam will solemnly bless the Sultan as the leader of the holy war. The upper part of the Dobrukscha is almost deserted. All the Mohammedans have gone south. The Christians have been taken off by passing steamers. The Turkish garrisons of the northeastern extremity of Bul-

## SCENE OF OPERATIONS ON THE DANUBE.



The chief interest of the campaign now centres in Moukhtar Pacha's defence of Erzeroum. The Herald has already predicted all the movements of the Russian columns and called attention to the Sogdiana position, as that on which a decisive battle was most likely to take place, as well as to the probability that the Russians would make an effort to turn it and establish themselves between the Turkish Commander-in-Chief in Asia and his headquarters at Erzeroum. According to the latest advices this is exactly what is being attempted, and with a very good prospect of success. Had the Turks been wise enough to have established large depots at Artvin, Ardahan, Kars and Bajazid, and covered these places with strong lines of earthworks behind which garrisons of 25,000 men each could hold the places, the Russian advance would have been delayed if not rendered almost impossible. But instead of doing this the Turks, either from want of means and men or through a gross military blunder, made no attempt to check the wave of invasion at its

outset, and they are now experiencing its cumulative force as it concentrates its energy on their only depot, Erzeroum. Their strategic plan is not unlike that of the French during the war of 1870. They have taken no precautions against the wings of the Russian army, the movements of which have been cleverly masked. Moukhtar Pacha, therefore, stakes the fate of his master's cause in Asia Minor on his defence of the Sogdiana passes. He will either prove victorious there or precipitately abandon Armenia, if he is permitted to escape.

Even as a demonstration the Russian advance and occupation of Galatz, Ibrail and the towns in the vicinity was a superb coup. It destroyed the Danube as a Turkish line of defence, and compels a distribution of the Ottoman forces along the right bank, where at no point are they strong enough to resist a crossing of the river. In a previous descriptive article the Herald indicated the line of the Kostendji railroad as that on which the Turks would first attempt to defend the Dob-

rukscha, and that the Rustchuk and Varna railroad would be the second. Late despatches state that these lines have been selected for the purpose by the Turkish commanders, who rely on the quadrilateral formed by the fortresses of Rustchuk, Silistria, Schumla and Varna as a support for the second line. But any one glancing at the Herald map this morning will see how incompletely the fortresses of Rustchuk and Silistria fulfil their parts as members of such a combination. Each depends for its supplies on the line it is expected to assist in defending, and if these lines are cut by an invading army as they inevitably will be by the Russians Rustchuk and Silistria become isolated from Schumla and Varna and from each other, while a movement to the left would place a Russian army corps between Schumla and the Black Sea.

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with the freedom of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. Hence we should protect Constantinople from becoming the prize of conquest. This is the essential part of our policy and is also the policy of all Europe. None of the Powers could permit the freedom of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea to be hampered; but to suppose that Russia would deny the united policy of all the Powers by seizing Egypt and Constantinople is to suppose that her statesmen are, in a medical sense, unfit to be at large. Mr. Croza, at the conclusion of his speech, gave the following as a clear statement of the government's policy: "Not to sanction oppression or tyranny in any part of the world; to preserve treaty engagements and act as an example which, followed by the other nations, would materially add to the happiness of the world; deeply as we regret the war, to maintain the strictest neutrality between the contending nations outside the necessities of the actual war, and to maintain as they ought to maintain, and as any British government would maintain, those interests of England which ought to be maintained. We have no thought of fear or gain. Before the face of the House of Commons, he declared—of England, of Europe, of the world—that the government is conscious of the honesty of their own purpose; they are conscious of their own earnest desire for peace; they are conscious, if need be, of their strength. They will not use their strength improperly. Whenever the opportunity may offer to stop this war, to heal these wretched divisions, to improve the condition of these Christian populations in a way which will really improve them, that way, in Mr. Croza's opinion, is not by war—to localize, minimize or wipe away the effects of war—there the government will give their services."

RUSSIA AND THE POWERS.  
A Paris correspondent says: "The Russian Telegraph Agency, while declaring that Russia will not reply to Earl Derby's note, publishes a statement which may be considered Russia's informal reply. It says the powers which seriously desire to re-establish an understanding and a guarantee of general peace must seek a new basis more in conformity with circumstances, without further dwelling on mistaken views of past results, which are the best refutation of the English despatch as respects the treaty of 1871, appealed to in this despatch it may be asked if the Porte was not the first to break the engagement of the preceding Treaty of 1856. If the English Cabinet maintains that the Porte was not bound by it, then that treaty would only have served to guarantee the Porte's entire impunity. All the documents of that period prove on the contrary that the Christian Powers did not mean to defend a regime oppressive for Christians. They simply decided against the exclusive protection of Russia. They substituted for it the common protection of Europe. The rights and duties attaching thereto have often exercised. The Agency cites instances of intervention such as the Andranos note, the Berlin memorandum, &c., and adds: "Results have proved that these platonic interventions led to nothing. If the English Cabinet regards the treaty of 1856 as important that interpretation will hardly be accepted by Europe, or even by the English nation, especially not by the Russian government or nation. In the interest of this treaty the common action and pressure of Europe should have been exerted. Russia has done everything for this purpose. Her efforts were fruitless. It only remained for Russia to execute alone the duty which the other Cabinets, agreeing with her in principle, hesitated to assume in practice. The Imperial Cabinet is justified in affirming that it is acting in conformity with the sentiments and interests of Europe."

SOCHAKIA AND THE WAR.  
A Bucharest correspondent, discussing the feeling there, says: "It would have been impossible at the outbreak of hostilities for the Roumanian government to induce the people to accept an open alliance with Russia, but, step by step, they have been moving steadily forward, using every argument and inducement. They have succeeded in arousing sufficient feeling to enable them to call out the militia. The reoccupation of Kalafat is also almost positive proof that the war party has carried the day." A private meeting of Roumanian Senators and Deputies has been held to consider the expediency of Roumania participating in the war. A majority of the Deputies appear to favor war, but the Senators' views are doubtful. The statement that the Roumanian army will probably be incorporated with the Russian army or placed under a Russian commander is officially contradicted.

A special despatch from Bucharest to the Wiener Presse reports that in a private conference of Senators and Deputies on Tuesday it was decided that the independence of Roumania should be proclaimed in the public sitting on Wednesday. After the proclamation of independence war will be declared. M. Istratie, President of the Ministry, was present at the meeting. Public opinion in Bucharest grows daily more and more in favor of regular participation in the war and a declaration of independence.

WHAT THE POLES ARE DOING.  
A Berlin despatch says: "It is reported from Vienna that a meeting of the Polish agitators was held at Lemberg on May 4, to determine the policy of the Poles in the present crisis. It was at this meeting that the organization of a Polish legion was decided upon. Count Plater will shortly publish a proclamation to the Poles in the name of the Secret National Committee. The Polish leaders have resolved to abstain from exciting any trouble with Austria."

THE NEUTRALITY OF THE DANUBE.  
In the Hungarian Diet yesterday Prime Minister Tisza, in reply to the interpretation of the Danube, said the neutrality of the Danube has never been expressly declared, but only the principle of free navigation. Therefore, interference of neutrals with the operations of belligerents is impossible while such operations are within the principles of international law. Austria-Hungary, however, has steadily made representations at St. Petersburg and Constantinople against any restrictions of navigation not indispensably necessary. A favorable reply is expected. The government's course will depend upon the result of these representations.

A despatch from Constantinople says Turkey has extended the time for vessels of neutral Powers to enter and leave the Black Sea to the 15th of May for entering and the 17th for departing. The Black Sea will be declared closed to navigation after the latter date.

Mr. Layard telegraphs Earl Derby that Turkey has extended the time for neutral vessels to enter and leave the blockaded ports of the Black Sea seven days. Vessels may enter until the 15th inst. and depart until the 17th inst.

THE GERMAN FLEET.  
A Berlin despatch announces that the German iron-clad squadron will leave Wilhelmshafen on the 30th inst. for the Mediterranean.

RUSSIAN BONDS IN HOLLAND.  
The Times in its financial article says large amounts of Russian bonds are going from here to Holland to fill the void produced there by the sale of United States drawn bonds. The Dutch, it seems, are selling the called bonds of the United States government to the Americans, and instead of investing in new four and a half per cent bonds by Russian securities in London; the result of this operation being that gold from America may find its way here on Dutch account to be used in paying for their Russian stock.

AMERICAN NEUTRALITY.  
OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THE WAR FROM THE RUSSIAN MINISTER—THE QUESTION OF A PROCLAMATION.

WASHINGTON, May 9, 1877.

Minister Shakin called upon the Secretary of State this afternoon and gave official notification to the government of the United States that a state of war exists between Russia and Turkey. Secretary Evarts will probably make the usual formal reply in writing.

It is not yet determined whether a neutrality proclamation will be issued by our government. In the great majority of instances of wars between foreign Powers no such proclamation has been issued by the President of the United States, and of course the laws and treaties governing neutrality upon our citizens in regard to conflicts between other nations remain in full force regardless of attention being called to their provisions by a "Neutrality proclamation."

THE RUSSIAN PACIFIC FLEET.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9, 1877.

A despatch from Valparaiso, where the Russian fleet is lying, says that it is reported on reliable authority that orders have been received by the fleet to get ready to sail at a moment's notice. The officers, however, say they do not expect to sail at an early date.

TROOPS FOR CANADA.

HALLOW, N. S., May 9, 1877.

Three hundred soldiers are on the way from England to fill up the Twentieth and Ninety-seventh regiments to their full strength.

CANADA'S DEFENCES.

QUEBEC, May 9, 1877.

Ten large 64-pound guns and a quantity of munitions of war arrived yesterday by the ship City of Quebec. The guns were immediately placed in position in the citadel.

DR. WHEELER'S TREASURE.

Dr. Alphonse Wheeler, a colored gentleman, a dentist from Santa Fe, came to this city last week and engaged rooms in Mrs. Elizabeth De Costa's boarding house, No. 64 1/2 Sullivan street. On Tuesday morning last he went out and left under his pillow a belt containing \$913 in gold. When he returned to the house about nine o'clock that evening Mrs. De Costa, who is a colored woman, said to him, "You are a very careless man, Doctor; you left your belt and money under the pillow when you went out to-day." She gave him the key of his room, but when he went up stairs the money or belt could not be found. His trunk, however, which contained a quantity of valuables, were left undisturbed. Mrs. De Costa and her servant Annie Ryan were arrested before Judge Wandell yesterday and held for examination.

## SEAT OF WAR IN ARMENIA.



right with the Roumanian forces. The next move of the Russian lot will probably be a forward one from Ismail and Kila on the Salina outlet of the Danube, which it is desirable to obstruct against the Turkish monitors coming from the Black Sea. This movement will begin from Reni eastward, and may possibly result in the capture of some of these iron-clad monitors that are now trying to obstruct the Russians at the last named town. Thus the Roumanian line will first extend up the river and toward its mouth, covered on each end by torpedoes. The main body of the army will then move across the Danube and force its way by a series of rapid marches southward to the Kostendji Railroad, which, when captured, will form a new line of operations, necessitating new dispositions of the Russian corps d'armee. It is when they are in occupation of this new front that the Russians may expect an English corps on their left flank, operating from Kostendji, on the Black Sea. But that corps, if it ever comes, will arrive too late.

Hostilities between the Roumanians and the Turks may now be said to have fairly commenced at Widin and Kalafat. This secures Roumania against a Turkish incursion from that side and covers the Russian

front, and that the Rustchuk and Varna railroad would be the second. Late despatches state that these lines have been selected for the purpose by the Turkish commanders, who rely on the quadrilateral formed by the fortresses of Rustchuk, Silistria, Schumla and Varna as a support for the second line. But any one glancing at the Herald map this morning will see how incompletely the fortresses of Rustchuk and Silistria fulfil their parts as members of such a combination. Each depends for its supplies on the line it is expected to assist in defending, and if these lines are cut by an invading army as they inevitably will be by the Russians Rustchuk and Silistria become isolated from Schumla and Varna and from each other, while a movement to the left would place a Russian army corps between Schumla and the Black Sea.

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